

FOOD FOR REFLECTION.

GATHERED FROM THE RELIGIOUS
AND GENERAL PRESS.Words of Wisdom on Religious and Moral
Subjects Which Are Worthy of At-
tention From the Thoughtful.

Oh, Thou That Hearest Prayer,

Oh, Thou that hearest prayer,
An eager suppliant I,
Relying on Thy care,
Send up my ceaseless cry!Oh, Lord, renew my soul
And give it strength to fight
The waves that o'er me roll,
The hindrances that smite!Send down Thy power until
My soul shall be aflame,
And all my pulses thrill
With glory of Thy name!Make me a temple grand
Of Thy majestic power—
To show to all the land
Whereon Thy mercies shower,The life Thou didst redeem,
The knight Thou armed for fray—
Till o'er my head shall gleam
Thy own immortal day!My feeble tongue with flame
Touch from Thine altar high,
Until I speak Thy name
In words that cannot die!Thou knowest my desire
To lead where shines Thy cross,
The rock, than all is higher,
The jewel, than all is dross!I give myself to Thee,
Dear Lord, reserving naught;
Eager to pour out free
The life that Thou hast bought;To teach the world Thy love,
Thy mercy over all;
To point to realms above
The souls that lie in thrall!Give me the power to heal
The wounds that smart again,
To lift the hearts that feel
The sorrow and the pain!Ask no glittering crown,
Simply to do Thy will,
And, when the sun goes down,
To rest upon Thy hill!

—Hamilton Jay.

UNION OF DIVERSITIES.

A Difficulty Which is as Old as the Race.

And the land was not able to bear them,
that they might dwell together; for their
substance was great, so that they could
not dwell together. Abram dwelled in
the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in
the cities of the plain.—Gen. xiii: 6, 12.And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou
here any besides? Son-in-law, and thy
sons, and thy daughters, and whatso-
ever thou hast in the city, bring them
out of this place.—Gen. xix: 12.When we look back into the dawn of
history, it is interesting to see there the
same manifestations of humanity that
we noticed but yesterday in this morning.
And more than interesting, it is delightful
to see, too, the providence of the divine
Father adjusting the various interests of
man, so that while there may be diver-
sity, still, there will be harmony, mutual
sympathy and good fellowship.There is much of a sameness to man-
kind, whenever or wherever you may ob-
serve it. The men of Massachusetts and
New England exhibit the same traits of
character that the men in Russia or In-
dia exhibit, only perhaps they are exhib-
ited in little different forms and habits.
The people of this generation are but
the sons of those who lived an hundred
generations back and the same feelings
and motives of life which animated men
in those older times when Abram and
Lot divided up the land among them-
selves may be seen operating to-day and
proving that all the world is akin.Thus, if there are "many men of many
minds" to-day, it is only a repetition of
the state of things that existed when
Abram and Lot were filling out the first
page of history. If people of one nature
or disposition find it difficult to get along
smoothly and happily with those of
different make-up, it is only a difficulty
that was experienced when history, fig-
uratively speaking, was not twenty-four
hours old.Abram and Lot as they grew older
found that though they were brothers,
yet their substance increased so rapidly,
and each in his own way became so wealth-
y and independent that the land was
not able or large enough to bear them
that they might dwell together, and when
conflict arose between the servants of the
two, Abram said, "Let there be no strife
between me and thee, for we be brethren.
Is not the whole country before thee?
If thou wilt take the left hand, then I
will go to the right; or, if thou depart to
the right hand, then I will
go to the left." So "Abram dwelled
in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled
in the cities of the plain," and in this
mutual happy understanding; that with
their peculiar possessions they could not
dwell together, they agreed to separate,
and lived in peace and love ever after,
each respecting the position of the other.
So here we have a divine precedent
given for this wonder of diversity and
variety between men, and yet a precedent
which stamps the seal of most beautiful
harmony and true regard.—Exchange.

IDEALS IN LIFE.

The Noblest and Most Beautiful.

It is a low, poverty-stricken life which
has no ideal held up before it. An ideal
of humanity even, ennobles a life, but
what shall be said for the life which
leaves out of its conception the great
ideal of our Saviour, who took upon
Him our humanity that He might make
for us an ideal life of purity and good-
ness after which we might strive. There
was once forged a singularly beautiful
letter concerning Christ: "He is a man
endowed with wonderful power. His
name is Jesus Christ. Men say that He
is a mighty prophet, but his disciples
call him the Son of God. He calls the
dead to life and frees the sick from
every form of disease. He is tall of
stature, and his aspect is sweet and full
of power, so that they who look upon
Him at once fear and love Him. The
hair of His head is of the color of wine.
His brow is pure and even. His coun-
tenance without a spot, but adorned with
a gentle glow; his expression is blandand open; his nose and mouth are of
perfect beauty. In reproving and threat-
ening He is terrible; in teaching and ex-
horting gentle and loving. The grace
and majesty of his appearance are mar-
velous. No one has ever seen him laugh,
but rather weeping. Weighty and grave
in speech, He is sparing of words. He
is the most beautiful of all the sons of
men."And this description was not written
by one of his followers. If He could so
impress one who knew and loved Him
not, how can those who have given Him
their hearts ever forget to strive to
order their lives after the Divine ideal, the
God Man, who crowned our humanity
with his own divinity, and gave us an
example after which to strive?—
Exchange.

The Ideal Church.

To clear away the accretions of a
darker age, to correct our mistaken
valuation of trifles, to ignore our un-
important church differences, to relax a
little the binding rigor of our liturgical
definitions, to bring the light of fresh
and unbiased study upon the inspired
Word, to reach out the hand of loving,
Christ-like sympathy to perishing sin-
ners, to recognize the occasional good
thoughts and the common hunger for
God even in heathen minds, to press the
supernatural facts and cardinal truths
of the Gospel upon the conscience and
heart, these may indicate, in a rough,
general way, the best direction for the
Church's present effort, and in this di-
rection she is moving. The pulpit, the
lecture-room, the Press, and even the
discoveries of science, will severally and
jointly contribute, and will, in God's
great Providence, usher in that ideal
Church, to which the church of to-day
will be—"As moonlight unto sunlight, and as
water unto wine."—The Late Rev. S. S. Nelles, D. D.,
LL. D., in the Methodist Magazine,
Toronto, June.

CLOSELY CONDENSED NEWS.

Regarding the Religious World in General.

And is this then the way he looks.
This tiresome creature, Phillips Brooks?
No wonder, if 'tis thus he looks.
The church has doubt of Phillips Brooks.
Well, if he knows himself, he'll try
To give these doubtful looks the lie.
He dares not promise, but will seek
Even as a Bishop to be meek!
To walk the way he shall be shown,
To trust a strength that's not his own,
To fill the years with honest work,
To serve his day and not to shirk;
To quite forget what folks have said,
To keep his heart and keep his head;
Until men, laying him to rest,
Shall say, "At least, he did his best."
Amen.The discussion in regard to a redistribu-
tion of the Episcopal diocese of this State
has resulted in the decision at a meet-
ing of representatives of the five dioceses
to create two new ones, one out of the
counties included in the dioceses of New
York and Albany, and one out of the
counties in the diocese of Western New
York.The curious report comes to us, on ap-
parently good authority, that at a late
conference in Cleveland three Polish
priests, representing 50,000 Polish Catho-
lics, agreed to accept Dr. Edward R.
Knowles, of Worcester, Mass., as bishop-
elect, and that this makes eight priests in
all thus far. The Kolosinski schism has
come to an end, we understand; but here
is a new schism which may be much
more portentous, and give Monseigneur Sa-
toili something to do.An interesting piece of translation work
—the translation of part of the Russian
liturgy into the dialect of the Yakuts of
Northeastern Siberia, has just been ac-
complished by some Russian scholars. It
seems that the language of the Yakuts
is so poor that it can only reckon a total
of two hundred root words. They have
no word for body, as distinguished from
flesh, and none for "bread." The Lord's
Prayer even could not be translated liter-
ally.The American Sunday-school Union has
received for its missionary work this
year \$129,158, against \$109,238 for the
previous year. It has employed 135 men,
86 of whom were at work during the
whole twelve months, and 52 during a
portion of the year. They have organized
1,785 new Sunday schools with 68,273 teach-
ers and scholars, reorganized 439, and
given aid to existing schools 8,363 times,
made 98, 275 visits to families, and dis-
tributed 14,233 Bibles and Testaments.
The organization of churches has follow-
ed in 193 cases.Dr. Lyman Abbott proposes to the Con-
gregational Home Missionary Society that
it shall ask from six to a dozen leading
churches in the East to give up their
pastor and one of their leading laymen,
for two or three Sundays and three or
four weeks, for a campaign in behalf of
home missions in the West, visiting and
preaching and generally helping the
cause. This is what Dr. William M.
Taylor did for the Congregational Church
Building Society. He made a much longer
campaign in behalf of a parsonage fund,
which is still doing excellent work and
renewing itself.The recent action of the Prussian Par-
liament, which, by an overwhelming vote,
granted the Protestant Church of the
Kingdom greater liberties in the manage-
ment of their own affairs, and also more
means for carrying on the
work of the church is the
outcome of an agitation begun more than
eight years ago. It is also a substantial
victory of the conservative and positive
element in Church and State over the
radical and liberal—i. e., liberal, as under-
stood on the Continent, where it prac-
tically signifies revolutionary or traditional
tenets and teachings. In 1885, just after
the end of the Kulturkampf by the estab-
lishment of a *modus vivendi* with Rome,
the Evangelicals to arms, and, in the famous
von Hammerstein Resolutions, they
asked for greater independence from State
control. At the time, Bismarck, in very
decided terms, refused to entertain the
proposition, having, as he then stated,
enough of trouble with the Roman Catho-
lic hierarchy, without permitting the for-
mation of a Protestant hierarchy. The
movement, however, would not down; it
reappeared in nearly the same form in
every session of the Parliament, until
now the demands have been complied
with, largely through the efforts of ex-
cort Preacher Stocker, who is a mem-
ber of both the Prussian and the German
Parliaments. One of the rights now con-
ferred upon the congregations is that of
discipline in the case of members who
deny the fundamentals of the Evangelical
faith. It is thought that the exercise of
this right will drive many liberals out
of the churches of which they have at
least formally been members.

THE CRITIC'S CORNER.

WEEKLY CHAT REGARDING WRIT-
ERS AND BOOKS."Maximilian and Carlotta," A Story of Im-
perialism, By John M. Taylor—"The
Shen's Pigtail"—Literary Notes.MAXIMILIAN AND CARLOTTA, A
STORY OF IMPERIALISM.—By John
M. Taylor. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New
York, London. For sale by West,
Johnston & Co.As Mr. Taylor truly says, in concluding
this story of Maximilian's brief career, "To
those who read history in the cold light
of exact criticism, who, with narrow vi-
sion measure men and events only as they
serve to illustrate one philosophic theory
or another, the Franco-Mexican inter-
vention will ever be merely one of the
episodes in the mock royalism of the
Second Empire, and the story of Maxi-
milian and Carlotta, one of mistaken
ambition, of the lust of power, of deserv-
ed misfortune.""But to those who salute the qualities
of humanity, courage and virtue in royal
lives, the empress in her ability as a
ruler, in her fateful and heroic mission
to save the crown, and at last in her
infirmity and sorrow, will command sym-
pathy and admiration; and the emperor,
wanting at times in strength and de-
cision, but never in loyalty and honor,
in his brilliant career as scholar, admiral,
and viceroy, in his deeds of government
and his chivalric endeavor to enforce
them, in his gallant fight against the in-
evitable, consecrating both his purposes
and achievements by his tragic sacrifice,
will stand pre-eminent among the knight-
ly sons of Hapsburg-Lorraine."The story of the young Emperor's brief
dominion is a familiar one, and now and
then from quiet Miramar a press special
regarding the condition of Carlotta re-
calls it painfully.Maximilian, true, young, earnest, has
never, since his execution on that fatal
19th of June, 1867, been viewed with en-
tire justice. He has been called one of
two things—a weak tool in the hands
of Napoleon, or a despotic lover of power
and seeker for it, by any practicable
means. As to the former, to declare him
"the tool" of Napoleon is, as Mr. Taylor
states, only a part of the truth."It has been urged," says he, "that
Maximilian was simply the tool and vic-
tim of Napoleon; that, after deluding
him with fair promises, into acceptance
of the throne, he broke his word, with-
drew his protection, and left the prince
to his enemies. This is but part of the
truth. Maximilian became Emperor of
Mexico, both to suit Napoleon's purpose
and his own. He had ample warning of
the probable consequences of his enter-
prise, and from first to last acted with
full knowledge of the problems and risks
his acceptance would involve." * * *"The causes which shaped his destiny are
to be found, in part, in his character and
environment. He was a man of limitless
ambition, but lacking in that strength of
will and clearness of judgment which are
at once its sole justification and the only
means of insuring its success. Gallantry,
courage, honesty of purpose, with a host
of the private virtues, did not save him
from being the unconscious instrument
of inordinate vainglory, bigotry, cupidity,
persecution, and bad faith."With regard to his acceptance of the
throne there can be little doubt that in
making his decision he was greatly in-
fluenced by one whose influence upon
him was at all times potent and whose
mind was more forceful than his own—
his charming young wife Carlotta, who
now waits in the shadow of a great
affliction, and in Miramar, about which
so many associations with the young
manhood of Maximilian cling—for the
return of the gallant husband. Nor did
Maximilian accept the throne until he
was assured by Estrada that the na-
tional vote of Mexico had confirmed the
action of the Assembly of Notables."Our happiness," said Estrada, "is
complete in informing you, in the name
of the Regency of the Empire, that the
vote by which you have been designated
for the crown of Mexico, is now ratified
by the adhesion of an immense majority
of the country, by the municipal authori-
ties, and by the town corporations; and
thus, consecrated, that unanimous pro-
clamation has become, by its moral im-
portance and by its numerical strength,
truly a national vote. There will be
no reward more enviable than that
which your Highness will receive in
seeing, at no remote day, Mexico pros-
perous and respected."Maximilian, whatever the weak points
in his personality may have been, was
incapable of insincerity, and, as is the
case with all spirited and true natures,
was entirely unsuspecting as regard the
acts and statements of others.However, as Mr. Taylor remarks with
brief sarcasm apropos of this "truly
national vote," "The man (Napoleon)
who re-established in himself the im-
perial dignity of France by the ballots
of eight million voters against a dis-
senting minority of but two hundred
and fifty thousand, might well count
upon almost a unanimous result from a
faction of the Mexican people, with
Bazaine and his veterans as inspectors
of election."In his reply to Estrada and the other
members of the second deputation, Maxi-
milian said, "A mature examination of
the acts of adhesion which you have
just presented me gives me confidence
that the vote of the Notables of Mex-
ico, which brought you a short time ago
to Miramar, has been ratified by an
immense majority of your compatriots,
and that I can consider myself, hence-
forth, with good right, the elect of the
Mexican people.""The illustrious head of my family
having given his consent, I now declare
that, relying on the assistance of the
Almighty, I accept the crown offered
me by the Mexican nation. I shall hold
firmly aloft the flag of independence,
as the symbol of our future grandeur.
I call for the co-operation of all the Mex-
icans who love their country to aid me
in the accomplishment of my noble but
most difficult task. Never shall my gov-
ernment forget the gratitude it owes to
the illustrious sovereign whose friendly
support has rendered the regeneration
of our noble land possible. I am now
on the point of leaving for my new coun-
try, paying as I go, a visit to Rome,
where I shall receive from the Holy
Father that benediction which is so
precious for all sovereigns, but, above
all, to me, called as I am to found a
new empire."On April 14, 1864, Maximilian and Carlot-
ta set out for Mexico; on June 19, 1867,
the gallant young emperor was executed on
the "Hill of the Bells" and his beau-
tiful wife, whose misfortune reminds usof Eugenie's, was gone insane through
suffering, and was ignorant of his fate.The only stain upon Maximilian's mem-
ory is the signing against the earnest re-
monstrances of his far-seeing wife as well
as of his wisest counsellors, of the pitiless
"Black Decree" and, whatever his
enemies allege in his disfavor, the facts
show him to have been fearless, true, and
high-souled. He is the center of one of
the saddest episodes in modern history,
and, in our opinion, considerably more of
a victim to Napoleon's greed for power
than to his own ambition.Mr. Taylor's book is commendably im-
partial, and for that reason valuable.
There are cases in which he draws con-
clusions from facts which would cer-
tainly not suggest themselves to us, but
he cannot be accused of allowing his
private admiration for Maximilian to
blind him to whatever was faulty in his
character as a man and as a ruler.The book is finely illustrated, and ad-
mirably printed and bound.THE SHEN'S PIGTAIL: By Mr. M.—
G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, Lon-
don. For sale by West, Johnston &
Co.Messrs. Putnam are now publishing a
series of small books by representative
authors whose names will, for the pres-
ent, not be given, and the series is there-
fore to be known as the "Incognito" Li-
brary."The Shen's Pigtail, and other cries of
Anglo-China life," is first in the series,
and contains six short stories of consid-
erable attractiveness. We are, as a rule,
disposed to view the Chinaman as a
sort of inferior and decidedly unattrac-
tive animal, and are more than willing to
let the missionaries represent our in-
terest in him. We are not given to think-
ing of him as a man among men, nor do
we regard him as a person about whom,
occasionally, an attractive story might be
written.Mr. M.—, in his six sketches, gives us,
with an ease which presupposes our in-
terest, glimpses of the every day China-
man, and has the audacity to picture a
Chinese girl who is beautiful.Possibly, it is the novelty of the idea
which attracts, but, whatever it is, the
sketches are most readable.The book is "strong backed, and neat-
bound," which Ella, the gentle wit, de-
clares to be the "desideratum of a vol-
ume."HYPNOTIC TALES: By James L. Ford.
Illustrated by the "Puck" artists,
George H. Richmond & Co., New York,
50 cents. For sale by West, Johnston
& Co.THE MYSTERY OF THE PATRICIAN
CLUB: By Albert D. Vandam, J. B.
Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. 50 cts. For
sale by West, Johnston & Co.THE DAMASCUS ROAD: By Leon de
Truseau, Translated by Florence B.
Gilmour, George H. Richmond & Co.,
New York, 50 cents. For sale by West,
Johnston & Co.

LITERARY BREVITIES.

Regarding People Whose Names are Fa-
miliar.There has lately been started in Victo-
ria, British Columbia, a paper called
the Province, about which the Literary
World, London, has this to tell. Under
the heading, "The Library," there is a
story of Miss Margot Tennant, Mr. Ben-
son, it appears, wrote to her and said:
"Dear Miss Tennant—All the world is
talking of you and my novel; when may
I come to see you?" She answered:
"Dear Mr. Benson—Did you really write
a novel? How clever of you! Come and
see me at anytime." When he came she
was out. The Literary World expects
now to see in this paper a racy anecdote
from Borneo or the North Pole.A writer in the Quarterly Review
stoutly combats the generally accepted
view that Shakespeare was a close ob-
server of animated nature, and brings
forward an imposing array of instances
which go far toward substantiating his
theory. The surprising similarity of the
poet's natural history to that of another
must, as he says, have struck all
students, and, though he agrees with
Dr. Johnson's verdict that "he was an
exact surveyor of the inanimate world,"
he shows that when treating of bird
and beast the great poet either borrows
from Lyly, William Browne, Chester,
or some one or other of his predecessors,
or else is wrong in his natural history.
It must, however, be remembered that
the accurate observation of the natural-
ist is a thing of modern times; but it
is a singular, though undeniable, fact
that Shakespeare's descriptions of animal
life are almost without exception from
the standpoint of a calm and unenthusi-
astic recorder, who rarely evinces any
personal love for, or delight in, the
creature that he describes.We learn that the novels of George
Eliot have as large a circulation as
ever," says the bookman. It is a curi-
ous fact that the only author who has
even temporarily affected the circula-
tion of these works is Edna Lyall. For
a year or two Edna Lyall's books were
extremely popular in the midland coun-
ties, where George Eliot sells most
largely, and they had for a year or two
a perceptible influence on the sale of
George Eliot's stories.The Tennyson manuscript, "Poems of
Two Brothers," has returned to Eng-
land, and is now in the Library of Trin-
ity College, Cambridge. There is an odd
glimpse in an old journal, which lately
came to the surface, of the Alfred Ten-
nyson of 1840. Those were the days and
nights when the poet wandered weirdly
up and down his mother's house in the
small hours, murmuring poetry as he
went; when he was wont to aver that
he saw "things" in those small hours,
or "before a midnight fire" and would
afterward sketch for his friends strange,
grim forms, half human and half beast.It is said of the late Edmund Yates
that his devotion to Charles Dickens'
memory was displayed with a constancy
delightful to record. He could bear
hardly a word of disparagement. "You
know I am a little mad on the Dickens
question," he wrote not long ago to one
who had ventured to criticize his favorite,
"and probably my irritability increases
as I grow older."Cease from this ante-dating of your ex-
perience. Sufficient for to-day are the
duties of to-day. Don't waste life in
doubts and fears; spend yourself on the
work before you, well assured that the
right performance of this hour's duties
will be the best preparation for the hours
or ages that follow it. * * * "Tis the
measure of a man—his apprehension of
a day.—R. W. Emerson.